

THE DEMOCRAT Approved For Release 2005/01/13 : CIA-RDP88-01350R000200230027-0
DUPLICITY: WHERE WAS THE LIBERAL
MEDIA WHEN WE REALLY NEEDED
THEM?

The President had his troubles with the press. Once, during a primary campaign, he telephoned Frank Stanton, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, to complain about CBS coverage of his campaign. He reminded Stanton, in a "strident" voice that CBS was licensed, which was taken as a threat by Stanton. During the campaign for the presidency, he told a reporter in blunt, gutter language, that when he became President he would emasculate Stanton.

As President, he once saw an evening news show which contained an item critical of his judgment. He immediately called the head of the Federal Communications Commission who was his appointee.

The conversation that ensued went as follows:

President: Did you see that goddamn thing on Huntley-Brinkley?

FCC Chairman: Yes.

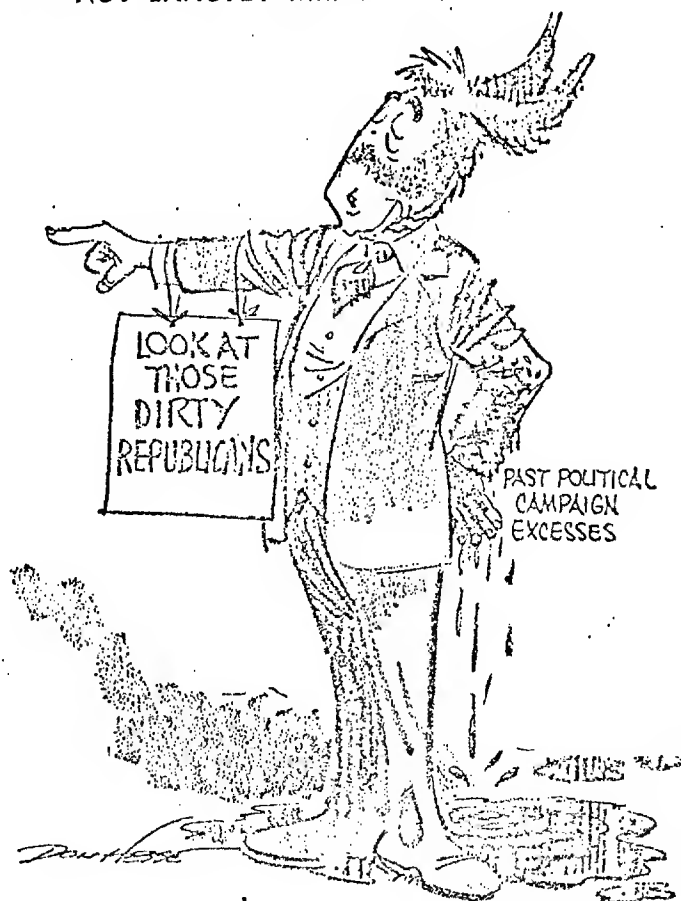
President: I thought they were supposed to be our friends. I want you to do something about that. You do something about that.

On another occasion he cornered the same FCC chairman at a party and vehemently told him what he should be doing, chewing him out to such an extent that the chairman's wife, exasperated, finally said to the President: "You'd make a wonderful chairman of the FCC."

The President's name was not, as some might suspect, Richard M. Nixon, but John F. Kennedy. One can be certain that if Richard Nixon had ever suggested to a correspondent that he was going to castrate a network president, it would be front page news all over the country. Yet how many have ever heard of, let alone seen in print, these examples of the Kennedy attitude toward a free and open press? Why didn't Americans see scathing editorials in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* about Kennedy's disregard for the public's right to know? We can only guess at the answer to these questions but David Wise's *The Politics of Lying*, (Random House, \$8.95) from which these examples were taken, seems to suggest that a Washington scandal is not a scandal unless the liberal press is willing to make it one. In other words, it is the liberal media, not the facts of the matter that go into making secret misbehavior into public scandal.

Wise's readable, well-documented account of Washington shenanigans is covered in such a matter-of-factly publicized disclosures as the following:

NOT EXACTLY MR. CLEAN



"It has been long believed that Adlai Stevenson, as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, did not know the truth about American involvement in the Bay of Pigs fiasco when he stated in the U.N. that no United States "personnel" were involved. Even today, many feel Stevenson was a victim of official secrecy and that he was not aware of the United States' involvement in the abortive invasion. David Wise claims that in an interview with Stevenson, the then-United Nations Ambassador admitted he had been briefed by a CIA official prior to the invasion. Wise writes that it is his feeling Stevenson wanted to say even more about his awareness of the U.S. role during the interview, but that fuller disclosure would only add to his already damaged reputation. Was Adlai "covering up?" Readers of the *N.Y. Times* and the *Washington Post* will never know.

"How deeply was the Kennedy Administration involved in the overthrow and eventual assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963? Wise writes, concerning the testimony of former American Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge:

"...a CIA cable to Lodge on October 6 warned the ambassador and the CIA station chief 'to preserve security and deniability' in all contacts with the